

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph immediately after the title of the invention on page 1 of the Specification as follows:

This is a divisional of pending application Serial No. 08/931,855 filed September 16, 1997 which [This] is a continuation-in-part application of [co-pending] Ser. No. 563,732, filed Nov. 28, 1995, now abandoned, which is a division of Ser. No. 049,531, filed Apr. 20, 1993, Pat. No. 5,470,720, which is a division of Ser. No. 344,237, filed Apr. 26, 1989, Pat. No. 5,204,259, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 191,229, filed May 6, 1988, abandoned, Ser. No. 206,499, filed June 13, 1988, abandoned and Ser. No. 258,016, filed Oct. 14, 1988, abandoned; and of co-pending Ser. No. 272,271, filed Jul. 8, 1994, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 616,369, filed Nov. 21, 1990, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 573,643, filed Aug. 27, 1990, abandoned; the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention over comes the difficulties by providing a simple and highly efficient expression system that allows for the production of large quantities of antigens. The invention relies on the efficient expression resulting fro the inclusion of the nucleotide sequence AGGAGGGTTTCAT (which corresponds to nucleotides 1-15 of SEQ ID

NO.:1) directly upstream from the ATG codon which marks the start of translation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention is directed to recombinant expression vectors which comprise a first nucleic acid having the sequence AGGAGGGTTTCAT (which corresponds to nucleotides 1-15 of SEQ ID NO.:1) operatively linked to a second nucleic acid having a sequence encoding an HIV or HCV antigen.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A DNA segment of the present invention comprises a first nucleotide base sequence that defines a ribosome binding site and has a sequence by the formula:

AGGAGGGTTTCAT (which corresponds to nucleotides 1-15 of SEQ ID NO.:1).

Please replace the sequence listing on pages 44 to 79 with the attached 24 pages of sequence listings and renumber the remaining of pages accordingly.